

## House Concurrent Resolution 8 - Introduced

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY BROWN-POWERS

1 A Concurrent Resolution calling upon the President of  
2 the United States, the United States Congress, the  
3 Governor, the executive branch of Iowa, and the Iowa  
4 General Assembly to work to improve communities by  
5 bolstering the care workforce.

6 WHEREAS, Iowans value care and caregiving and  
7 recognize that the ability to care for one another  
8 is the connective tissue of society, forming and  
9 strengthening familial and community relationships, and  
10 enabling people to participate to their fullest extent  
11 in growing the economy; and

12 WHEREAS, social and economic forces, including the  
13 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, have irreversibly changed  
14 how our families live, work, and provide care; and

15 WHEREAS, Iowa, with its large senior population  
16 and number of families where both parents are in the  
17 workforce, has a particular need for a strong care  
18 infrastructure to enable all Iowans to live in dignity  
19 and contribute to their communities and economy; and

20 WHEREAS, the needs of people with disabilities  
21 have long been overlooked or marginalized in policy  
22 solutions, often resulting in the inability to access  
23 vital services and support necessary for maintaining  
24 independence and dignity; and

25 WHEREAS, the need for a care workforce, including  
26 child care, home and community care, and long-term  
27 care, will only grow over time and represents a source  
28 of employment at a time when many current jobs are

1 subject to automation; and

2 WHEREAS, the care workforce requires public sector  
3 recognition, support, and investment to fulfill its  
4 roles, but for too long has been taken for granted  
5 and seriously under-resourced, under-invested, and  
6 under-compensated; and

7 WHEREAS, investing in the care workforce can be a  
8 key community-building strategy in both urban and rural  
9 communities for women and people of color, groups who  
10 are currently most likely to serve care workforce roles  
11 and are most subject to economic disadvantage and the  
12 impacts of COVID-19; and

13 WHEREAS, the care workforce undergirds our economy  
14 and is the work that makes all other work possible; NOW  
15 THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
17 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly of the  
18 State of Iowa calls upon the President of the United  
19 States and the United States Congress to place the  
20 strengthening of the care workforce as a high priority  
21 in response to COVID-19 and as a first step in building  
22 this workforce for the 21st century; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly  
24 of the State of Iowa calls upon the President of  
25 the United States and the United States Congress to  
26 establish an essential worker bill of rights which  
27 gives particular recognition to the ongoing and  
28 post-pandemic needs of workers deemed essential to the  
29 economy; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly

1 of the State of Iowa calls upon the President of  
2 the United States and the United States Congress  
3 to work to enact a 21st century caregiving and  
4 education plan which explicitly addresses the need  
5 for expanding access to a broad array of long-term  
6 services and support in local settings, ensures  
7 access to high-quality, affordable child care, treats  
8 professional caregivers and early childhood caregivers  
9 with respect and dignity, gives care workforce  
10 personnel pay and benefits they deserve, and provides  
11 for training and career ladders to higher-paying  
12 jobs; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly  
14 of the State of Iowa calls upon the Governor and  
15 the executive branch to collaborate with the General  
16 Assembly to develop a state structure for effective  
17 implementation of federal acts called for in this  
18 resolution, and ensure strong oversight, transparency,  
19 accountability, and guarantee the participation and  
20 representation of those in the care workforce and the  
21 people they serve; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly  
23 of the State of Iowa calls upon the Governor and  
24 the executive branch to collaborate with the General  
25 Assembly to ensure that the implementation of federal  
26 acts called for in this resolution coordinate with, and  
27 provide information to, Iowa Workforce Development,  
28 the Department of Education, the Department of Public  
29 Health, the Department of Inspections and Appeals,  
30 the Department of Human Services, and the Department

1 on Aging, including Future Ready Iowa, in order to  
2 ensure access to affordable, quality care and support  
3 services for all who need it, including children, older  
4 adults, and people with disabilities; expand support  
5 services and respite for family caregivers while making  
6 professional care more affordable and accessible; and  
7 improve the wages of care workforce jobs for early  
8 childhood educators, child care workers, and direct  
9 care workers, including home care; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of  
11 this resolution, the Chief Clerk of the House of  
12 Representatives shall transmit copies of this  
13 resolution to the President of the United States, the  
14 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
15 the United States House of Representatives, and each  
16 member of Iowa's congressional delegation.